



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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## MEMORANDUM

September 19, 2014

**To:** Atlantic Herring Section  
Atlantic Herring Advisory Panel  
Atlantic Herring Interested Parties

**From:** Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director *TK*

**RE:** Atlantic Herring Closures in Spawning Areas (Inshore Gulf of Maine) and Management Area 3 (Georges Bank)

The Atlantic herring fisheries will be closed in the following areas due to inshore spawning events or landings reaching the total allowable catch quota.

### Area 3(Georges Bank)TAC Closure

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) projected the Atlantic herring fishery has exceeded 92% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocated to Management Area 3 (Georges Bank) for the 2014 fishing year (January-December). The directed fishery will close effective 0001 hours on September 23 through 2400 hours on December 31, 2014. During the closure, vessels issued federal permits for Atlantic herring may not retain or land more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring from Area 3 per trip or calendar day. Federally permitted dealers may not receive more than 2,000 pounds of herring per vessel harvested from Area 3, per trip or calendar day, from 0001 hours, September 23, 2014, through December 31, 2014, unless it is from a trip landed by a vessel that entered port before 0001 hour on September 23, 2014. See the attached NMFS press release for details.

States are reminded that in accordance with Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring, once a closure has been announced by the Regional Administrator of NMFS, states must prohibit the landing of herring from a closed area and prohibit directed fishing for Atlantic herring in state waters of a closed area.

### Spawning Area Closures

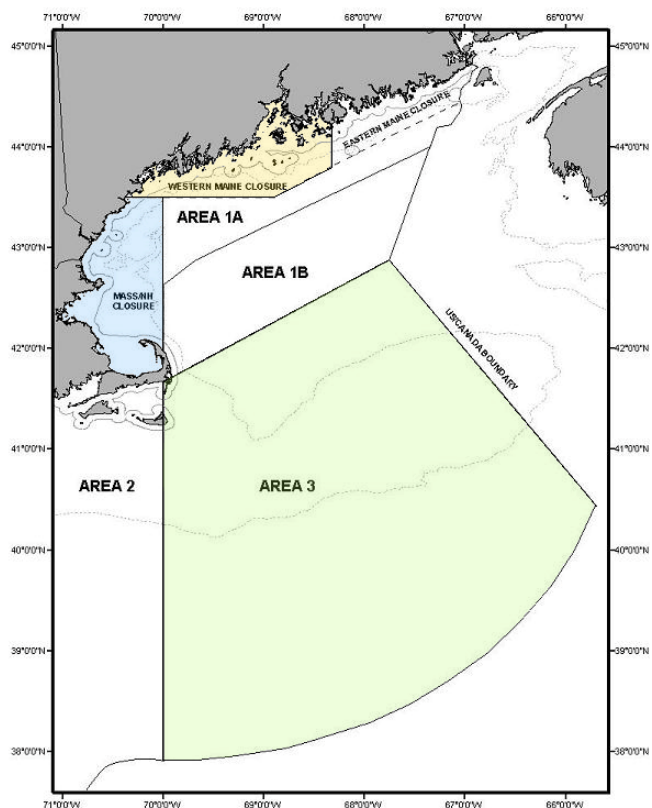
The spawning areas of Western Maine and Massachusetts-New Hampshire will be closed to protect spawning Atlantic herring. The Western Maine area will be closed effective 12:01 AM on September 24 through 11:59 PM on October 21, 2014 (a period of four weeks). The Massachusetts-New Hampshire area will be closed effective 12:01 AM September 21 through 11:59 PM on October 18 and through 11:59 PM of October 19 in New Hampshire only (see attached state notices). Both spawning closures are based on commercial sampling of fish in spawning condition. The Eastern Maine spawning area has reopened.

Catch sampling will continue in the spawning areas when the fishery reopens. If sampling indicates significant numbers of spawning herring in a particular area, the closure will resume for an additional two weeks. Spawning regulations can be found in Addendum V of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Atlantic Herring Fishery Management Plan.

Spawning Area/ Management Area	Boundaries		Closure Dates (inclusive)
Western Maine	43° 30' N 43° 30' N 43° 48' N North to Maine coast at 68° 20' W	Maine coast 68° 54.5' W 68° 20' W	September 24 through October 21
Massachusetts-New Hampshire	All waters bounded by MA, NH, and ME coasts 43° 30' N and 70° 00' W		September 21 through October 18 (Oct. 19 in NH)
Management Area 3 (Georges Bank)	70° 00' W 70° 00' W 70° 00' W 67° 44' 35" W	41° 35' N 67° 44' 35" W 67° 44' 35" W 42° 53' 14" N	September 23 through December 31

Any vessel is prohibited to fish for, take, land, or possess herring from or within the restricted spawning areas and Area 3 (Georges Bank). Herring taken legally outside of the Western Maine and Massachusetts-New Hampshire areas and Area 3 (Georges Bank) may be transported through the areas only if all of its fishing gear has been stowed. An incidental bycatch allowance of up to 2,000 pounds of herring per trip for non-directed fisheries is permitted during the closures in the two spawning areas and Area 3 (Georges Bank).

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Yuen at [myuen@asmfc.org](mailto:myuen@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.



M14-82

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

September 16, 2014

HERRING SPAWNING REGULATIONS FOR THE WESTERN MAINE SPAWNING AREA  
ARE IN EFFECT STARTING SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 THROUGH OCTOBER 21, 2014

The Maine Department of Marine Resources would like to inform herring fishermen and dealers that herring spawning closure regulations which affect the capture of herring in state and federal waters in the Western Maine Spawning Area will be in effect September 24, through October 21, 2014.

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, possess, transfer, or land in any State of Maine port or facility, or to transfer at sea from any Maine registered vessel, any catch of herring harvested from the following described area:

All waters bounded by the following coordinates:

43° 30' N	Maine coast
43° 30' N	68° 54.5' W
43° 48' N	68° 20' W
North to Maine coast at 68° 20' W	

Herring taken legally outside the Western Maine Spawning Area may be transported through the area, only if all of its fishing gear has been stowed.

For more details, please contact your local Marine Patrol Division Headquarters (Div I 633-9595, Div II 667-3373) or your local marine patrol officer, or call the DMR Boothbay Harbor Laboratory (633-9500).

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES  
HERRING SPAWNING REGULATIONS FOR THE “NEW  
HAMPSHIRE/MASSACHUSETTS SPAWNING AREA” ARE IN EFFECT STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH OCTOBER 18, 2014

The Maine Department of Marine Resources would like to inform herring fishermen and dealers that herring spawning closure regulations which affect the capture of herring in state and federal waters in the New Hampshire/Massachusetts Spawning Area, which includes waters off southern Maine, will be in effect September 21 through October 18, 2014.

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, possess, transfer, or land in any State of Maine port or facility, or to transfer at sea from any Maine registered vessel, any catch of herring harvested from the following described area

All waters bounded by the Massachusetts, New Hampshire  
and **Maine** coasts, and  
43° 30' N and 70° 00' W

Herring taken legally outside the New Hampshire/Massachusetts Spawning Area may be transported through the area, only if all of its fishing gear has been stowed.

For more details, please contact your local Marine Patrol Division Headquarters (Div I 633-9595, Div II 667-3373) or your local marine patrol officer, or call the DMR Boothbay Harbor Laboratory (633-9500).



# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

**HEADQUARTERS:** 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500  
(603) 271-3421  
FAX (603) 271-1438

**www.WildNH.com**  
e-mail: [info@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:info@wildlife.nh.gov)  
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

## Notice to Atlantic Herring Harvesters

### Spawning Closure Effective September 21, 2014

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Sea Herring also calls for annual area closures to fishing to protect spawning herring. The spawning closure will be effective September 21, 2014 12:01 AM through 11:59 PM October 19, 2014. The closure may be extended by the Executive Director if sampling of herring landings indicates that spawning is ongoing.

During the above closure, vessels participating in other fisheries may possess and land no more than 2,000 pounds of Atlantic herring per trip from the spawning area for the duration of the closure.

Therefore, in accordance with Fis 603.07, the State of New Hampshire is implementing the following provision:

#### NH Landing Restrictions:

**It is unlawful to fish for, take or possess unprocessed herring within the jurisdiction of New Hampshire from 12:01 AM September 21, 2014, through 11:59 PM October 19, 2014.**

#### Exemptions:

**An exception to the rule is that any vessel may land herring taken as an incidental catch in the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Spawning Area or in Management Area 1A, up to a maximum of 2,000 pounds.**

**Any person, firm or organization properly permitted may land herring from areas not under spawning closures provided they are equipped with a functional vessel monitoring system.**

Glenn Normandeau  
Executive Director

#### **REGION 1**

629B Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584-3612  
(603) 788-3164  
FAX (603) 788-4823  
email: [reg1@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg1@wildlife.nh.gov)

#### **REGION 2**

PO Box 417  
New Hampton, NH 03256  
(603) 744-5470  
FAX (603) 744-6302  
email: [reg2@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg2@wildlife.nh.gov)

#### **REGION 3**

225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824-4732  
(603) 868-1095  
FAX (603) 868-3305  
email: [reg3@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg3@wildlife.nh.gov)

#### **REGION 4**

15 Ash Brook Court  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-9669  
FAX (603) 352-8798  
email: [reg4@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg4@wildlife.nh.gov)



# Greater Atlantic Region Bulletin

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

For Information Contact:  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
(978) 281- 9315

<http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>  
Date Issued: 9/18/2014

## **ATLANTIC HERRING FISHERY**

Management Area 3 Directed Fishery Closure

Herring catch limited to 2,000 lb per trip or day

*Effective Date: 0001 hours on September 23, 2014*

NMFS announces the closure of the directed fishery for Atlantic herring in Area 3 as of 0001 hours, September 23, 2014. Vessels issued Federal Atlantic herring permits may not fish for, catch, possess or land more than 2,000 lb of herring in or from Area 3 per trip or calendar day, beginning at 0001 hr on September 23, 2014, through 2400 hr on December 31, 2014, except that vessels that enter port before 0001 hr on September 23, 2014, may offload and sell, from that trip, more than 2,000 lb of herring from Area 3 after the closure.

Federally permitted dealers may not receive more than 2,000 lb of herring per vessel harvested from Area 3, per trip or calendar day, from 0001 hours, September 23, 2014, through December 31, 2014, unless it is from a trip landed by a vessel that entered port before 0001 hr on September 23, 2014.

During the directed fishery closure, from September 23, 2014, through December 31, 2014, vessels may transit through Area 3 with more than 2,000 lb of herring on board, provided the vessel did not fish for or catch more than 2,000 lb of herring in Area 3 and stows all fishing gear aboard, making it unavailable for immediate use.

*For small entity compliance guides, this bulletin complies with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996. This notice is authorized by the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, Greater Atlantic Region.*